

HOUSE BILL 1941
By Newton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 6, relative to workers' compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)(1) In case of a dispute over or failure to agree upon compensation under the Workers' Compensation Law between the employer and employee or the dependents of the employee, either party may file a civil action in the circuit, criminal, or chancery court in the county in which the employee resides or in which the alleged injury occurred. In instances where the employee resides outside the state and where the injury occurs outside the state, then the complaint shall be filed in any county where the employer maintains an office.

(2) Neither party in a civil action filed pursuant to this section shall have the right to demand a jury.

(3) Officers serving process, subpoenas, and other papers shall have the same fees provided by law for constables and sheriffs.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-6-225, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) Unless required to be filed by an earlier date as a result of discovery requests pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure, within sixty (60) days after the filing of an answer in an action under this section, the employer shall file with the court a wage statement detailing the employee's wages for the previous fifty-two (52) weeks, including all bonuses or other remuneration given to such employee that are given in the course of business to other employees of such employer, unless the employer stipulates that the maximum weekly workers' compensation rate applies in the particular action.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.